

REMARKS

I. Status of the Application

By the present Amendment, Applicant amends claims 14 and 16. Applicant also hereby cancels claims 1, 7-13 and 15 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 14, 16 and 17 are all the claims pending in the Application, with claims 14 and 16 being in independent form. Claims 1, 7-13 and 15 have been rejected.

The present Amendment addresses each point of objection and rejection raised by the Examiner. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 14, 16 and 17 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant hereby rewrites claims 14 and 16 in independent form. Further, Applicant submits that claim 17 is allowable *at least* by virtue of its dependency on claim 16. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 14, 16 and 17 are immediately allowable.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 7-13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0149704 to Kano et al.

Claims 1, 7-13 and 15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and, therefore, the Examiner's rejections with respect to these claims are now moot.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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Attorney Docket No.: Q77651

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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